







Student Placements 2027/28
Game & Wildlife Scottish Upland Research and Advisory Service

Background & Placement Location
The Scottish Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust office at Auchnerran in Deeside is our research base for Scottish upland research. The primary focus of our research is the conservation and management of upland bird and wildlife populations and their moorland habitats. Alongside research the Trust provides an Advisory Service to upland estates, and game and wildlife managers on best practice and sustainable game management for the benefit of game and wildlife species.

The Placement Position
Each year we offer two undergraduate student placements/year-in-industry internships. Placements will work with the Trust's upland research and advisory teams on field research, wildlife and habitat surveys, sorting and processing samples, animal health and disease screening, processing data, desk-based research, and assist with ongoing research and advisory work. Placements will, therefore, gain experience and skills in a wide range of research and survey methods. Specifically, activities will include:

- Assisting with the Maternal Condition in Red Grouse Project (radiotracking, nest visits, invertebrate sampling, vegetation surveys and measurement),
- Conducting peat depth and upland habitat surveys,
- Laboratory-based work, including health testing in red grouse and invertebrate identification,
- Data entry and management, including use of GIS, and report writing.

There will be an opportunity for each student to develop their own aspects of ecological interest by undertaking a personal research project, supervised by GWCT staff. Placements will be provided with all necessary training, including off-road driving and outdoor first aid. The placement will provide a unique opportunity for students to gain hands on experience in applied research while working along-side the Trust's Advisory Service to turn research into practice.

Placement students are based at the Trust's Auchnerran office but will be expected to travel widely and to spend time away from Auchenerran (all work related travel and accommodation costs will be paid by the Trust).

We welcome applicants with an appetite for outdoor fieldwork and a strong interest in field and wildlife ecology, and a desire to learn. A full driving licence at the time of application is essential, as is the willingness to be flexible and to work in all weather and in remote locations, occasionally on a lone working basis. Placements should be comfortable living and working in a remote rural location in northeast Scotland.

The Trust provides private accommodation in a shared house next to the office. We offer a standard stipend of £131 per week, free accommodation, plus paid bills.

Application Process
To apply please send a CV and cover letter explaining why you are interested in the placement and arrange to have your tutor send a reference to the contact below by the 10th of January 2027. Interviews will be held online between 18th – 29th January 2027, followed by face-to-face visits for successful candidates. The placements will be for a year commencing at the beginning of August 2028.

To apply or for queries please contact:
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